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Market News

Issued LIVESTOCK DIVISION Weekly

MARKET REVIEWS AND STATISTICS

Vol. 24, No. 3 January 17, 1956

Week ended January 14

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LIVESTOCK DIVISION
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AGRI-WASH

MIDWEST LIVESTOCK MARKET REVIEW

Livestock marketings expanded considerably following curtailment during recent holiday weeks, and receipts during the week under review were largest since early December. Fed steers and yearlings under 1100# were in best demand and sold largely steady to 50¢ lower. Heavier offerings declined 50¢-$1.00, a few selling $1.50 lower. Increased receipts of hogs were in fairly good demand and butchers closed mainly steady to 50¢ higher. Slaughter lambs were steady to 25¢ higher at several midwest markets with declines of 25¢-$1.00 at a few points.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE AND CALVES

Cattle receipts were largest since early December and despite some improvement in the dressed beef trade, prices of fed cattle declined, erasing the previous week's advance. An additional bearish influence was the abundance of fed steers over 1200# at several midwest markets. Such cattle were under most pressure, the severity of the decline generally increasing with the weight. Chicago received a very liberal supply of 1300-1550# steers and these together with a dozen loads of 1650-1750# steers declined $1.00-1.50. About 25 loads mostly over 1200# remained unsold late. Bulk of the 1100-1300# steers there declined 50¢-$1.00, lighter offerings including heifers closing mainly steady to 50¢ off. At other midwest markets Choice and Prime steers under 1100# varied from steady to 50¢ lower, most other steers closing 50¢-$1.00 lower, with a similar break on heifers and cows. Bulls also declined but vealers and calves showed mixed price trends. A sprinkling of Prime 1050-1275# steers cashed at Chicago from $23.50-24.60; bulk Choice and Prime 1100# down $20.50-23.25; same grades 1100-1300# $18.00-23.25; 1300# up $17.00-22.00. Five loads of Prime 1665-1755# sold late from $17.00-18.50, few loads Choice 1475-1550# $16.50. At other midwest markets Good and Choice steers bulked from $15.50-21.25, few high-Choice and Prime $21.50-23.00. At Omaha Prime 1396# steers brought $21.50; 1432# $20.00; 1502# $19.00 and 1516# $18.50. A few loads of Choice and Prime 1648-1742# sold at other midwest terminals from $18.00-18.75. Slaughter of 1,617,280 cattle under Federal Inspection in December was second largest of record for the month.

STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE AND CALVES

Demand for stock cattle held up surprisingly well in the face of a decidedly bearish outlet for fat cattle and even though marketings of stockers were moderately increased, trading at terminal markets was fairly active at steady to 50¢ higher prices. However, prices of fleshy feeder steers and heifers tended to weaken. Marketings of feeder classes were relatively small but movement of stocker yearlings and calves was considerably larger than during the two previous holiday-shortened weeks and also larger than a year ago. Drouthy winter conditions and resultant fading winter pastures in sections of the West and Southwest forced the movement of some cattle to market. At the same time, the open winter has been favorable to the handling of cattle and tended to stimulate demand for stockers in areas more favorably situated for both water and cheap winter feeds. Demand from such localities apparently is more than sufficient to absorb the calves and light yearlings currently being marketed. The seemingly growing preference for "little" cattle to rough through the winter and then graze during the summer has created competition for such offerings which has held price levels up to a point that to some cattle men appear too high in view of the current unfavorable price relationship between fats and feeders. The average cost of $17.48 for all steers shipped to the country from Kansas City during the week was $2.44 under a year ago. At the same time the average price of $17.92 for all fed steers on that market was $5.54 below a year ago. Good and Choice feeder steers at the various markets ranged from $15.50-18.50, few fleshy 700-750# yearlings up to $19.50. A moderate number Choice light yearling stockers and steer calves sold from $20.00-22.00, few Choice and Fancy steer calves reaching $23.00.

HOGS

Combined receipts of about 1,064,000 hogs at 12 markets and the Interior were largest since the week ended December 17. It was the fifth time this season that the total has exceeded one million head. Packer buyers were aggressive in nearly all sections. Shipping demand varied from good in some sections to only moderate in others. Prices fluctuated moderately, and in spite of a generally steady to lower trend in the Eastern dressed pork trade, butcher prices closed mainly steady to 50¢ higher. Price trends on sows were largely similar to those on butchers. Sows under 400# often sold in a rather narrow price spread. At most markets there was little sorting within lots of butchers for either grade or weight. Price differences of 50-75¢ or more on comparable weight butchers reflected the uneven degree of finish, and marked preference for the rather small proportion of No. 1 and 2 grade lots over lots grading mostly No. 2 and 3. Butchers 240-270# sold from 50¢-$1.50 below most offerings 230# down, and weights 300# and above sold $2.00-3.00 below highest prices paid for butchers 230# down. In the Interior area, excessively fat No. 3 lots were often discounted 15-40¢ from comparable weight No. 2 butchers. Slaughter of 7,324,456 hogs under Federal Inspection in December was exceeded only once previously, in December in 1943 when 7,566,817 were slaughtered. Stocker and feeder pig prices were little changed. Good and Choice feeders sold at South St. Paul from $8.00-9.00, some Choice $9.50; a few at Kansas City $8.50-9.00; 130-160# feeders at Sioux City from $9.00-9.75. Prices at Memphis were steady to 50¢ higher, Medium and Good 70-140# $8.50-10.00, some Choice under 80# $10.50.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Increased numbers of sheep and lambs were marketed at midwest terminals and trading continued uneven. At the majority of midwest markets lambs sold steady to 25¢ higher, but at a few points prices declined 25¢ to as much as $1.00. Sheep and feeder lambs brought steady prices in the midwest with feeders weak to $1.00 lower at Fort Worth. Twelve-market receipts were largest in five weeks but still about 25% short of a year ago. Lambs around 110# and heavier were discounted up to $2.00 or more a cwt. from comparable grade lighterweights, reflecting discounts of $3.00-4.00 on 55-65# carcasses over those under 55# in the wholesale dressed trade. Most Good to Prime wooled lambs under 110# sold at $16.50-18.75, a few $19.00-19.25; same grades 111-137# $15.00-18.25. Shorn lambs up to 108# with No. 1 to summer shorn fleeces cleared from $16.50-18.00, some freshly shorn along with 130# offerings down to $15.00. Cull to Choice slaughter ewes cashed from $3.00-7.50. Medium to Choice feeder lambs turned at $14.00-18.50. A few short term breeding ewes brought $8.00.

WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW

An uneven price trend featured the trade on slaughter steers and heifers at western terminals. Inquiry was less urgent than during the previous week and supplies proved fully ample for the demand. Slaughter steers and heifers sold mostly steady in direct trading and at California markets with prices at other terminals steady to $1.50 lower, most declines on steers over 1150# at Denver. Cows closed steady to mostly 50¢ higher at California markets and steady to $1.00 lower at other centers. Vealers and slaughter calves were in good demand at all points at steady to $2.00 higher prices. Stockers and feeders sold fully steady, instances 50¢ higher. Barrows and gilts closed steady to 50¢ lower. Slaughter lambs were steady to firm except at Denver where closing sales were 50-75¢ lower.

High-Good and Choice slaughter steers bulked at Western terminals from $18.00-20.50, a few loads $21.15-21.50 at Denver; Good steers mainly $16.00-18.00; Utility and Commercial $11.00-16.00. Good and Choice fed heifers cashed from $15.00-19.00, few lots high-Choice to Prime $20.00-20.50 at Denver. Utility and Commercial heifers brought $10.00-14.50. Canner and Cutter cows cleared from $8.00-10.50, with considerable numbers at Portland and Spokane from $6.00-8.50. Choice and

Continued on page 53.

WEEKLY RECEIPTS OF SALABLE LIVESTOCK AT 12 PUBLIC MARKETS

Market	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep	
	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 15 1955	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 15 1955	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 15 1955	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 15 1955
Chicago	54,047	49,669	1,941	1,945	85,207	69,115	15,453	18,871
Cincinnati	4,509	4,825	879	949	18,710	14,927	937	820
Denver	22,206	28,935	4,185	6,891	5,620	6,068	13,950	17,009
Fort Worth	10,829	9,319	2,438	2,892	2,389	2,306	9,578	10,748
Indianapolis	10,590	11,454	1,024	1,496	58,026	47,473	4,241	6,140
Kansas City	27,653	24,336	2,143	2,504	13,937	10,695	5,729	9,067
Oklahoma City	15,252	12,460	1,357	1,626	2,800	2,913	1,615	3,365
Omaha	45,599	48,509	992	2,357	82,736	64,987	10,439	24,351
St. Joseph	18,990	16,649	889	1,174	39,470	34,306	4,429	9,343
St. Louis NSY	19,073	18,409	3,887	4,104	72,093	50,654	7,316	8,654
Sioux City	31,837	30,242	2,753	3,420	74,377	58,973	9,618	13,286
S. St. Paul	26,119	24,480	14,133	11,405	96,629	70,176	19,053	16,864
Total	286,704	279,287	36,621	40,763	551,994	432,593	102,358	138,518
Jan. 7, 1956	219,461		29,813		450,510		91,674	

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Week ended:	Hogs	Sheep
Jan. 14, 1956	512,000	29,000
Jan. 7, 1956	456,500	32,300
Jan. 15, 1955	398,500	37,500

FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER

	Week ended			Month		Six Months	
	Jan. 12 1956	Jan. 5 1956	Jan. 13 1955	Dec. 1955	Dec. 1954	July - Dec. 1955	July - Dec. 1954
Steers - 1001# up	472	187	507	2,510	2,359	18,876	16,330
901-1000	1,553	816	2,184	7,296	7,240	44,506	44,636
801-900	4,211	2,567	3,427	16,377	16,641	96,543	104,540
701-800	4,368	2,777	4,552	18,445	18,036	165,797	170,277
501-700	9,417	4,208	10,988	31,876	40,166	347,402	381,136
Total steers 10 mkts.	20,021	10,555	21,658	76,504	84,442	673,084	716,919
Av. wts. " " "	717#	735#	710#	740#	722#	711#	706#
Av.cost* " " "	$16.62	$15.96	$19.61	$15.42	$18.38	$17.30	$18.19
" " " Chicago	17.05	16.68	19.37	16.18	19.14	18.14	19.17
" " " Ks. City	17.48	16.93	19.92	15.89	19.23	17.52	18.38
" " " Omaha	16.30	15.68	20.01	15.35	18.24	17.70	18.94
" " " S. St. Paul	15.10	13.93	17.14	14.12	16.64	15.71	16.25
" " " Sioux City	16.72	15.55	20.51	15.32	19.08	17.45	18.75
" " " Denver	16.47	16.27	21.12	15.67	20.35	18.16	19.80
" " " Ft. Worth	16.57	16.44	18.54	15.63	17.04	17.12	16.43
" " " Okla. City	16.30	16.03	18.14	15.30	17.05	16.14	15.49
" " " S. St. Joseph	16.67	16.02	18.75	15.29	18.09	16.62	17.27
" " " Natl. Stk. Yds.	16.05	15.39	18.79	15.39	17.51	16.80	1/16.60
Total calves-10 mkts.	11,058	4,733	13,701	43,440	67,868	368,856	480,327
" cows.							
heifers, bulls- " "	4,466	2,325	5,689	21,521	27,704	202,981	228,336

* Not adjusted for differences in grade of cattle sold at each market.

1/ Five months - Aug.-Dec.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	12 1956	Jan. 5 1956	13 1955	12 1956	Jan. 5 1956	13 1955	12 1956	Jan. 5 1956	13 1955	12 1956	Jan. 5 1956	13 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	8988	6197	2854	26.1	27.0	11.5	1237	1221	1138	21.89	22.28	32.39
Choice	16890	11874	12824	49.0	51.9	51.8	1157	1144	1130	20.34	20.51	27.39
Good	7597	4225	7509	22.0	18.5	30.3	1051	1041	1036	18.18	17.89	23.72
Com'l.	846	501	1250	2.4	2.2	5.1	965	956	941	15.16	15.10	19.10
Utility	178	95	315	.5	.4	1.3	911	980	906	12.74	13.04	15.17
All grades	34499	22892	24752				1149	1141	1090	20.20	20.46	26.44
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	682	478	422	4.1	3.1	2.6	1214	1208	1124	21.67	21.58	30.30
Choice	9566	10124	8349	57.9	65.9	51.5	1121	1143	1126	19.82	19.70	25.76
Good	5067	3634	6752	30.7	23.7	41.6	1078	1089	1071	17.22	17.22	22.29
Com'l.	918	904	548	5.6	5.9	3.4	1031	1094	941	14.66	14.51	17.40
Utility	286	219	142	1.7	1.4	.9	934	947	886	12.80	12.42	14.15
All grades	16519	15359	16213				1103	1127	1095	18.75	18.81	24.14
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	741	1130	280	8.2	14.3	3.6	1213	1201	1172	21.63	21.46	30.32
Choice	4476	3733	3698	49.5	47.1	47.5	1133	1124	1118	20.10	19.85	26.22
Good	2973	2570	3475	32.9	32.4	44.6	1069	1046	1077	17.87	17.94	22.64
Com'l.	731	449	222	8.1	5.7	2.8	1008	970	993	15.15	15.01	17.91
Utility	124	42	117	1.3	.5	1.5	942	933	930	12.38	11.88	14.82
All grades	9045	7924	7782				1106	1100	1097	19.08	19.24	24.45
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	76	171	--	.9	2.2	--	1220	1140	--	21.01	21.32	--
Choice	3807	3360	2796	44.0	44.1	52.3	1139	1146	1133	18.99	19.50	24.87
Good	4376	3710	2428	50.6	48.7	45.4	1050	1093	1014	17.16	16.94	21.95
Com'l.	348	300	114	4.0	3.9	2.1	947	1034	1012	14.56	14.64	17.36
Utility	48	81	9	.5	1.1	.2	938	1010	931	12.28	12.43	15.01
All grades	8655	7622	5347				1091	1114	1076	17.92	18.07	23.46
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	26	63	--	.4	1.2	--	1098	1094	--	22.71	22.33	--
Choice	1733	1061	1083	29.2	20.0	26.0	1103	1062	1061	19.66	19.56	25.42
Good	3029	2940	2531	51.0	55.4	60.7	1033	1053	968	17.27	17.44	22.09
Com'l.	1037	1170	465	17.4	22.0	11.1	981	971	986	15.42	15.31	18.74
Utility	119	72	94	2.0	1.4	2.2	876	862	912	12.63	12.46	15.54
All grades	5944	5306	4173				1041	1035	993	17.65	17.44	22.51
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	14	7	26	.2	.1	.4	1014	971	1156	21.40	22.66	29.91
Choice	4142	3402	3167	55.8	55.0	50.3	1133	1126	1095	19.02	19.37	25.13
Good	2599	2249	2798	35.0	36.3	44.4	1058	1071	1028	16.77	16.71	21.71
Com'l.	580	489	252	7.8	7.9	4.0	1044	1024	978	14.57	14.70	17.37
Utility	84	45	57	1.2	.7	.9	889	806	913	11.98	11.90	14.90
All grades	7419	6192	6300				1097	1095	1059	17.87	18.05	23.31

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	Jan. 12 1956	Jan. 5 1956	Jan. 13 1955	Jan. 12 1956	Jan. 5 1956	Jan. 13 1955	Jan. 12 1956	Jan. 5 1956	Jan. 13 1955	Jan. 12 1956	Jan. 5 1956	Jan. 13 1955
DENVER 1/												
Prime	294	254	4	7.3	7.2	.1	1134	1167	939	22.46	22.98	27.00
Choice	2487	2277	2783	61.9	64.5	78.0	1154	1131	1082	20.07	20.14	25.45
Good	1211	987	745	30.2	27.9	20.9	1092	1146	1023	18.30	17.98	23.35
Com'l.	23	14	23	.6	.4	.7	1189	1195	867	13.92	15.00	17.65
Utility	--	--	11	--	--	.3	--	--	1016	--	--	14.32
All grades	4015	3532	3566				1134	1138	1068	19.70	19.72	24.95

1/ These summaries developed from data collected on marketings of fed cattle by the Agricultural Estimates Division.

ESTIMATED FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

Week ended	Beef		Veal		Pork (excl. lard)		Lamb and mutton		Total meat prod.	Total lard prod.
	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.		
	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	mil. lb.	mil. lb.
Jan. 14, 1956	416	228.8	151	17.2	1,742	231.0	304	14.6	491.6	64.5
Jan. 7, 1956	342	187.4	141	16.1	1,435	190.3	267	12.8	406.6	51.4
Dec. 31, 1955 1/	314	172.7	105	11.7	1,333	176.8	260	12.0	373.2	51.9
Jan. 15, 1955	386	205.9	144	16.8	1,374	191.8	318	15.2	429.7	50.8
Percentage change from:										
Jan. 7, 1956	+22	+22	+7	+7	+21	+21	+14	+14	+21	+25
Jan. 15, 1955	+ 8	+11	+5	+2	+27	+20	- 4	- 4	+14	+27

Week ended	Average weights (lb.)								Lard yield per 100 lb.
	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs		
	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed 2/	Live	Dressed	
Jan. 14, 1956	1,010	550	210	114	242	133	100	48	15.3
Jan. 7, 1956	1,005	548	210	114	241	133	100	48	14.9
Dec. 31, 1955	1,000	550	205	111	239	133	99	46	14.9
Jan. 15, 1955	980	533	214	117	248	140	100	48	14.9

1/ Actual slaughter and revised estimate of production. 2/ Excludes lard.

UNITED STATES FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER BY REGIONS

December 1955 - with comparisons

(thousand head)

Region	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep & lambs	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
N. Atlantic States	129	136	112	104	637	527	225	230
S. Atlantic States	40	42	27	24	271	208	--	--
N. C. States - Eastern	327	325	210	225	1,598	1,413	144	137
N. C. States-N.Western	487	444	117	113	3,026	2,655	399	399
N. C. States-S.Western	178	160	29	36	801	590	95	102
S. Central States	158	183	92	93	538	373	61	61
Mountain States	97	100	7	7	131	113	81	79
Pacific States	202	193	39	36	323	239	150	160
Total	1,617	1,583	633	639	7,324	6,119	1,155	1,167

Other animals slaughtered under Federal inspection, (number of head): Dec. 1955 - Horses 19,289; Goats 4,495; Dec. 1954 - Horses 24,996; Goats 3,557.

Data furnished by Agricultural Research Service.

WEEKLY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION AT MAJOR CENTERS

City or Area	Cattle			Calves			Hogs			Sheep and lambs		
	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 15 1955	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 15 1955	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 15 1955	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 15 1955
Boston, New York City Area	13,354	11,084	12,037	11,363	9,915	11,258	64,207	53,355	55,440	50,721	45,045	57,042
Baltimore, Philadelphia	8,995	7,469	8,260	1,191	1,178	1,151	33,722	25,788	24,241	2,474	2,471	1,467
Cin., Cleve., Detroit, Indpls.	19,666	16,643	17,986	5,457	5,585	5,744	117,101	99,006	89,481	17,434	13,859	14,557
Chicago Area	28,172	23,466	28,083	7,514	6,978	7,651	65,798	53,818	65,052	7,281	6,527	7,316
St. Paul-Wis Areas	36,614	29,512	31,590	35,048	35,805	30,910	166,480	141,230	129,698	22,217	14,394	15,141
St. Louis Area	15,837	12,676	14,022	4,452	4,017	6,545	124,547	103,874	79,157	11,197	12,505	12,426
Sioux City	12,566	11,255	10,203	41	47	5	39,605	33,112	28,842	6,922	5,408	6,818
Omaha Area	37,621	31,541	36,144	1,022	747	1,220	123,102	101,832	92,236	18,454	15,606	21,603
Kansas City	17,871	15,496	16,732	3,476	2,474	4,296	54,945	45,878	34,409	12,026	12,189	13,808
Iowa-So. Minnesota	31,816	27,929	30,114	15,209	14,054	13,545	384,622	319,605	334,353	35,746	34,761	40,579
Lou'l. Evan'l. Nash'l. Mph's.	10,841	8,349	10,149	8,032	8,577	7,268	62,321	51,779	39,047	Not available		
Georgia-Alabama Area	7,327	5,666	7,082	3,031	2,571	2,766	38,768	34,188	27,331	—	—	—
St. Jo'ph. Wichita, Okla. City	22,314	17,800	21,623	5,280	4,512	4,722	93,684	71,139	63,960	13,855	14,099	16,185
Ft. Worth, Dallas, San Antonio	17,327	14,626	17,171	7,503	6,561	6,716	33,113	29,607	22,473	11,083	10,577	12,895
Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City	18,669	15,059	18,697	1,278	1,042	1,464	23,248	16,863	18,420	20,123	16,958	17,823
Los Angeles, San Fran. Areas	33,523	27,056	29,622	3,700	3,097	3,602	45,215	36,008	38,977	31,953	28,230	36,449
Portland, Seattle, Spokane	8,771	6,881	7,489	794	477	665	26,239	20,008	16,052	5,159	3,629	5,267
Total	341,284	282,508	317,004	107,637	114,391	109,528	1,496,717	1,237,090	1,159,169	236,258	266,645	279,376

ESTIMATED PERCENT FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE AND SLAUGHTER COWS IN SALABLE RECEIPTS

Week ended	Chicago	Kansas City	Omaha	S. St. Joseph	St. Louis NSY	Sioux City	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	Denver	Fort Worth	Okla. City	Wichita	San Antonio
Feeders and stockers													
Jan. 13, 1956	3	31	9	8	4	20	5	5	15	20	65	30	37
Jan. 6, 1956	2	21	8	7	5	13	5	2	8	15	55	23	40
Jan. 14, 1955	3	33	15	13	3	27	7	7	15	35	50	41	45
Slaughter cows													
Jan. 13, 1956	10	11	15	15	21	18	33	15	20	18	15	23	30
Jan. 6, 1956	9	9	13	12	20	17	35	16	18	12	14	18	18
Jan. 14, 1955	15	14	15	20	23	13	38	26	25	15	20	25	30

CATTLE: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	Chicago			Kansas City			Omaha		
	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 15 1955	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 15 1955	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 15 1955
Slaughter cattle, calves and vealers									
Steers -									
Prime 900-1100#	23.32	23.53	32.25	22.12	22.12	29.98	22.50	22.31	31.12
1100-1300	22.75	23.03	33.17	21.65	21.75	30.22	22.28	22.22	31.80
Choice 900-1100	21.15	21.44	28.70	19.58	19.75	26.08	20.28	20.06	27.48
1100-1300	20.02	20.44	28.60	19.30	19.50	26.08	19.68	19.63	27.25
Good 900-1100	18.10	17.97	23.32	16.55	16.88	21.42	17.38	17.19	21.70
Com'l. All wts.	14.95	14.94	18.62	14.50	14.50	17.65	15.00	14.66	17.40
Heifers -									
Prime 600-800#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice " "	20.00	20.19	25.88	19.18	19.38	23.65	19.62	19.47	24.65
Good 500-900	16.78	16.94	21.74	16.30	16.50	19.48	16.75	16.47	20.28
Com'l. All wts.	13.75	13.75	17.18	14.00	13.94	15.20	14.12	13.69	15.80
Cows - All weights									
Commercial	12.32	12.50	12.08	12.42	12.50	12.10	11.70	12.13	11.62
Utility	10.92	11.28	10.62	11.05	11.50	10.60	10.45	10.81	10.15
Canner & Cutter	9.50	9.91	9.12	9.52	10.00	8.92	9.18	9.50	8.52
Bulls - All weights -									
Good	12.90	13.19	12.90	--	--	--	13.20	13.13	11.88
Utility & Commercial	15.22	15.32	15.06	13.80	12.74	13.12	13.76	13.62	13.30
Vealers - All weights -									
Choice & Prime	28.00	28.00	27.40	22.00	22.00	22.90	19.00	18.50	18.50
Com'l. & Good	22.50	22.50	21.00	17.50	17.50	17.30	15.50	14.50	14.50
Calves - 500# down									
Choice & Prime	19.00	19.00	21.50	16.80	17.00	18.80	17.00	16.00	17.50
Com'l. & Good	14.50	14.50	16.00	14.30	14.50	15.30	14.00	13.00	13.75
Feeder and stocker cattle and calves									
Steers -									
Choice 500-800#	19.75	19.75	22.45	19.25	19.00	22.25	19.50	19.00	22.00
Good " "	17.50	17.50	20.20	17.50	17.25	19.50	17.50	17.00	20.00
Medium 500-1000	14.75	14.75	17.18	15.00	15.00	16.75	15.00	14.50	16.75
Heifers -									
Choice 500-750	17.05	17.25	18.90	16.25	16.19	18.25	16.50	16.25	18.00
Med. & Gd. " "	13.80	14.00	15.65	13.75	13.69	15.00	13.50	13.12	14.25
Cows - All weights -									
Medium & Good	--	--	--	10.50	10.22	10.50	10.62	10.25	10.38
Calves - 300-500# -									
Steers -									
Good & Choice	20.50	20.50	22.00	19.50	19.50	20.75	20.50	20.12	21.88
Heifers -									
Good & Choice	17.25	17.25	18.45	16.50	16.50	17.25	17.00	16.75	17.50

HOGS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	Chicago			Interior Iowa and southern Minnesota			Indianapolis		
	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 15 1955	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 15 1955	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 15 1955
Barrows and gilts -									
U.S.No.1, 160-180#	11.15	11.25	17.28	9.09	8.90	15.51	11.25	11.44	17.82
2 and 3 180-200	11.78	11.78	17.94	10.55	10.40	16.86	11.88	12.03	18.18
200-220	11.60	11.74	17.78	10.93	10.72	17.11	11.88	11.91	18.12
220-240	11.45	11.44	17.44	10.52	10.33	16.74	11.62	11.56	17.72
240-270	10.70	10.56	16.58	9.94	9.78	16.11	10.90	10.94	16.95
270-300	10.20	10.16	16.08	9.35	9.22	15.37	10.18	10.16	16.32
Sows -									
300-330#	9.70	9.69	15.32	9.16	8.98	14.99	9.20	9.25	15.20
360-400	9.20	9.28	14.90	8.52	8.38	14.31	8.75	8.91	15.00
450-550	8.50	8.66	13.92	7.89	7.75	13.10	7.85	7.88	14.30
Pigs (stocker and feeder)-									
Gd. & Ch. 70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	Omaha			St. Louis National Stock Yards			Sioux City		
Barrows and gilts -									
U.S.No.1, 160-180#	10.38	10.38	--	11.50	11.72	17.82	--	--	--
2 and 3 180-200	11.18	11.19	17.62	11.95	12.15	18.06	11.01	11.28	--
200-220	11.18	11.19	17.62	11.92	12.06	17.88	11.01	11.28	17.40
220-240	11.18	11.19	17.35	11.62	11.78	17.44	10.94	11.16	17.25
240-270	10.70	10.53	16.50	10.90	11.16	16.65	10.32	10.44	16.42
270-300	10.08	10.12	15.65	10.28	10.42	16.02	9.68	9.75	15.68
Sows -									
300-330#	9.08	9.16	15.18	9.25	9.32	15.58	9.38	9.28	15.15
360-400	9.08	9.16	15.18	8.88	8.95	15.20	8.95	8.81	14.78
450-550	8.45	8.60	14.05	8.38	8.42	14.32	8.18	8.09	13.78
Pigs (stocker & feeder)-									
Gd. & Ch. 70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

	S. St. Paul			Baltimore			N. Portland		
Barrows and gilts -									
U.S.No.1, 160-180#	11.42	10.69	17.68	12.62	12.71	19.09	12.38	12.50	19.31
2 and 3 180-200	11.55	11.31	17.68	12.94	12.97	19.09	12.97	12.83	19.67
200-220	11.55	11.31	17.50	12.91	12.97	19.09	12.97	12.83	19.67
220-240	11.30	11.03	17.08	12.47	12.71	18.56	12.69	12.67	19.31
240-270	10.60	10.28	16.35	12.03	12.25	17.94	11.88	11.92	18.31
270-300	--	--	15.60	11.12	11.44	17.19	11.62	11.62	17.69
Sows -									
300-330#	8.98	8.56	15.58	9.58	9.66	16.00	10.75	10.75	17.12
360-400	8.48	8.31*	15.07	9.54	9.62	16.00	10.25	10.25	16.69
450-550	8.20	7.91	14.15	8.25	8.38	14.00	9.75	9.88	15.69
Pigs (stocker & feeder)-									
Gd. & Ch. 70-120#	8.90	8.50	18.20	--	--	--	--	--	--

*Revised.

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

Week ended	Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8-mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST -				Dollars per 100 pounds					
Barrows and gilts Jan.14, 1956	10.92	11.35	10.99	10.70	10.48	11.04	10.70	11.34	10.90
Jan. 7, 1956	10.85	11.36	11.05	10.83	10.68	11.17	10.37	11.34	10.88
Jan.15, 1955	16.70	17.34	16.90	16.51	16.29	16.80	16.74	17.46	16.79
Sows Jan.14, 1956	8.69	8.63	8.72	8.69	8.66	8.96	8.60	8.03	8.60
Jan. 7, 1956	8.87	8.69	8.61	8.87	8.61	9.02	8.34	8.09	8.65
Jan.15, 1955	14.29	14.63	14.61	14.35	14.03	14.48	14.36	14.25	14.34
AVERAGE WEIGHT -				Pounds					
Barrows and gilts Jan.14, 1956	243	227	231	235	236	227	226	231	233
Jan. 7, 1956	242	230	231	233	234	223	223	230	231
Jan.15, 1955	248	227	235	249	253	237	235	233	241
Sows Jan.14, 1956	451	438	433	417	409	419	421	477	435
Jan. 7, 1956	444	438	446	413	412	404	425	477	434
Jan.15, 1955	455	441	443	445	448	431	437	479	450
NUMBER OF HEAD -									
Barrows and gilts Jan.14, 1956	71418	63939	12557	74520	67622	35532	86262	53385	465035
Jan. 7, 1956	56804	48273	8602	57585	54333	28312	74881	42754	371544
Jan.15, 1955	58673	45657	9428	59496	53483	31315	63309	43277	364638
Sows Jan.14, 1956	7580	4132	1084	5829	3044	2513	4796	3934	32912
Jan. 7, 1956	6847	3399	647	4858	1866	2178	4439	3467	27701
Jan.15, 1955	4105	2642	493	3367	2094	1870	2489	3210	20270
SOWS				Percentage of total					
Jan.14, 1956	10	6	8	7	4	7	5	7	7
Jan. 7, 1956	11	7	7	8	3	7	6	8	7
Jan.15, 1955	6	5	5	5	4	6	4	7	5

1/ Weighted average.

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
Jan. 14, 1956	$14.47	$11.78	+$2.69
Jan. 7, 1956	14.77*	11.78	+ 2.99*
Jan. 15, 1955	19.71	17.94	+ 1.77

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U. S. No. 1, 2 and 3 hogs 180-200# wt. Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

*Revised.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Week ended	Barrows and gilts Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, 1/ No. 3, yellow Cents per bushel	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
Jan. 14, 1956	10.92	124.5	8.8
Jan. 7, 1956	10.85	126.0	8.6
Jan. 15, 1955	16.70	153.3	10.9

1/ Simple average price.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS
In dollars per 100 pounds

		Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Denver	Ogden & North Salt Lake	South San Francisco
LAMBS - 110# down (WOOLED) -								
Choice and Prime	Jan. 14, 1956	18.52	18.08	17.40	--	18.75	--	19.25
	Jan. 7, 1956	18.75	18.75	18.44	--	19.50	--	19.25
	Jan. 15, 1955	21.06	20.58	19.75	--	20.55	--	21.00
Good and Choice	Jan. 14, 1956	17.90	17.35	16.50	16.25	18.12	17.25	--
	Jan. 7, 1956	18.12	17.50	17.44	16.75	18.88	16.50	--
	Jan. 15, 1955	19.95	19.70	18.75	18.92*	19.55	19.45	20.00
EWES (WOOLED)								
Good and Choice	Jan. 14, 1956	6.12	4.38	4.62	--	7.12	6.00	--
	Jan. 7, 1956	6.12	4.38	4.62	--	7.03	6.00	--
	Jan. 15, 1955	6.75	6.50	6.38	--	8.25	--	--
Cull and Utility	Jan. 14, 1956	4.75	3.50	3.62	--	5.25	3.75	--
	Jan. 7, 1956	4.75	3.50	3.62	--	5.25	3.75	4.50
	Jan. 15, 1955	5.50	5.15	5.12	--	6.12	--	4.50
FEEDER LAMBS -								
Good and Choice	Jan. 14, 1956	--	16.75	--	16.45	17.50	16.00	--
	Jan. 7, 1956	--	16.88	--	--	17.50	14.50	--
	Jan. 15, 1955	--	20.25	16.15	16.70	19.25	--	15.00

*Shorn basis.

WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45

Prime vealers brought $21.00-28.00, Good and Choice vealers and slaughter calves $18.00-21.00, a few Choice 300# calves $23.00. Good and Choice stocker and feeder steers sold from $16.00-18.50, Choice 500# stockers reaching $19.00 at Ogden; limited volume Good and Choice stocker and feeder heifers $14.00-16.50; same grades stock steer calves mostly $18.00-21.50.

Choice steers under 1200# sold out of California feedlots mainly from $19.00-19.50, few loads 975-1075# $20.00-20.25; Good to low-Choice $16.00-18.50; Good and Choice fed heifers $16.00-18.00; 2 loads young Commercial cows $14.00. These sales were made f.o.b. ranch at 4% shrink. A few loads of Good and Choice stocker and feeder steers cleared from $16.00-18.25, around 60 head 550-750# stock steers $19.00; one load Choice stock calves reaching $19.50 in Northern California. A few loads of mostly Choice steer calves brought $18.25 in Oregon. Stocker and feeder sales f.o.b. ranch from none to 2% shrink.

Mixed lots U. S. No. 1 to 3 180-240# barrows and gilts sold at South San Francisco late at $12.50; at Stockton $13.00; at Los Angeles $12.00-13.00; at Portland $12.25-13.50; at Spokane $12.00; at Ogden $12.50, and at Denver $10.50-11.75.

Good and Choice fall shorn to full wooled slaughter lambs brought $17.00-18.75, with a limited showing at Denver from $19.00-19.50. More than 15 loads of Choice full wooled lambs, some lots carrying a sprinkling of Prime, sold out of Idaho at $18.50, a few loads $19.00.

NEW YORK WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Western Dressed Fresh Meats

Weak and declining prices featured the week's trade on Western dressed fresh meats. Supplies of beef, lamb and fresh pork were fully normal and somewhat in excess of trade requirements. Veal supply was moderate and consisted mainly of Good and lower grades. Trading was uneven, with unfavorable weather and icy roads on Monday preventing many retailers from participating. Demand on subsequent sessions was fair to slow. A sizable supply of lamb and some veal was still unsold late, with clearance doubtful. Compared with the previous Friday: Steer beef steady to $2.00 higher; cow beef steady; veal steady to $5.00 higher; calf $4.00 to $6.00 up; lamb steady to $3.00 lower; fresh pork loins $2.00-3.00 off; other fresh pork cuts weak to $1.00 lower.

Receipts of steer beef included all grades from Commercial to Prime, with weights over 750# predominating. Demand centered on Good to Prime carcasses around 650# and lighter, but stocks of these were depleted early. Rounds were in dependable demand, but outlet for other wholesale cuts was rather restricted, with prices weak to lower. Prices of cow beef held about steady under pressure.

Veal prices turned upward early, but after midweek, trade was less active. Supplies were seasonally small and well-balanced with demand, although relatively few high-Choice and Prime carcasses were included. Calf numbers were small. A sizable accumulation of lamb was available in wholesale coolers late in the week as buyer interest lagged. Weight was an important factor in most sales. Prices showed a downward trend, influenced by the preponderance of Good to Prime carcasses scaling 55# and up. Some carryover was anticipated. Fresh pork supplies continued fairly liberal. Movement was slow but dependable. Prices on fresh loins declined as sellers endeavored to effect clearances rather than divert stocks to freezers.

Locally Dressed Fresh Meats

Local slaughter was of more nearly normal proportions following some curtailment during recent weeks. Supplies were fully ample in most instances. Small accumulations of heavyweight steer and lamb carcasses were noted in some coolers. Demand for veal was less urgent than recently, with late prices showing easiness after opening slightly to sharply higher. Prices of steer cuts, except rounds, worked lower, particularly on weighty selections, while lamb prices eased, with kosher lamb foresaddles sharply lower toward the close. Fresh pork cuts sold at about steady prices under severe pressure.

Steer beef production consisted of all grades, with high-Prime offerings rather scarce. Demand was fairly broad for Choice and Prime hindquarters scaling 170# down, with bulk of heavyweight offerings diverted to cutting accounts. Trade on rounds was active throughout, with firm price stands maintained by packers and wholesalers. Short loins, ribs and arm chucks all lost price ground, particularly primal cuts carrying excess fat. Trading on kosher steer cuts was rather slow and highly selective. Prices averaged about steady.

Vealers comprised the greater part of the veal and calf supply as calf numbers were scant. Quality showed some improvement but buyers continued to operate selectively. Prices were sharply higher at the outset, but an easier tendency developed after midweek. Increased lamb supplies proved burdensome in a quiet trade. Carcass prices turned lower early, with weight an influencing factor as offerings scaling 55# up were hard to move, even at sharp discounts. Prices declined daily on most weights and grades of kosher lamb foresaddles.

Production of fresh pork was fully normal, with most cuts selling at about steady prices. Locally cut loins received preference from many buyers, in view of a relatively slow movement into consumer channels. Prices were fairly well maintained despite some pressure on early rounds. Other major fresh pork cuts showed little change.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Steer and heifer beef supplies consisted mainly of Good and Choice carcasses. High-Choice and Prime veal were in relatively small supply, but average-Choice and below were about normal in volume, with weights under 90# predominant. Lamb supply proved fully adequate, carcasses 55-65# making up the bulk. Fresh pork offerings were plentiful, and excessive in spots early in the week. Trade on carcass beef and lamb was slow with clearance doubtful. In beef cuts, squarecut chucks and rounds cleared quite readily, while Choice and Prime ribs 32# and over, and Choice loins were rather slow. Lamb loins and ribs were most wanted among lamb cuts. Veal trading was mostly dull with price advances early in the week influenced mainly by higher replacement costs. Pork trade opened slowly but became fairly active after Monday, and clearance was expected to be good. Compared with last Thursday's close: Commercial beef steady to 50¢ higher, other grades steady to 50¢ lower; veal steady to $2.00 higher, full advance on Good and Choice; lamb $1.00-2.50 lower; pork loins 8-12# steady, 12-16# $1.00-2.00 lower, other pork cuts steady to $1.00 lower.

Choice and Prime squarecut beef chucks ranged from $28.00-30.00, rounds $40.00-43.00; Prime loins $73.00-79.00, Choice $60.00-66.00; Prime ribs $54.00-57.00, Choice $46.00-50.00. Choice and Prime kosher style beef chucks sold from $29.00-31.00. Choice veal hindsaddles realized $55.00-59.00, comparable forequarters $23.00-25.00. Lamb hindsaddles cashed at $45.00-52.00, lamb legs $40.00-47.00; loins $58.00-62.00, and hotel ribs $50.00-55.00.

PACIFIC COAST WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Supplies of most steer carcasses were adequate for the demand on the West Coast, with Choice and Good carcasses under 600# in limited supply in the Los Angeles area. Cow beef, veal and calf were in moderate to small supply while lamb carcasses under 50# were in small volume at San Francisco and adequate at other points. Pork continued liberal to excessive. Trading was fair on most steer carcasses, fairly active on cow beef, calf and lamb, slow on fresh and cured pork cuts. Prices compared to last Friday: Steer beef steady to 50¢ lower in northern California and the Northwest, uneven but mostly steady in the Los Angeles area; cow beef steady to $1.00 higher, instances $2.00 higher at San Francisco; veal and calf steady to $3.00 higher; lamb mostly steady, few $1.00 lower at Los Angeles; fresh pork steady to $2.00 lower, instances $4.00 lower on loins at Los Angeles; cured pork steady to weak, few smoked skinned hams $1.00-2.00 lower and slab bacon $1.00-5.00 lower at Los Angeles; lard about steady.

Choice steer carcasses under 700# sold mostly from $32.00-36.00, few to $37.00 at Seattle and down to $31.50 at Los Angeles, 700-800# $31.00-32.00 in California; Good 500-700# $29.00-35.00; Commercial $27.00-31.00. Commercial cow carcasses bulked from $23.00-26.00; Utility $22.00-26.00; Canner and Cutter $18.00-23.00.

Choice veal under 150# sold from $41.00-48.00; Good and Choice calf under 200# $31.00-39.00; Commercial, all weights, $29.00-33.00 at Los Angeles only. Choice and Prime lamb under 55# brought $37.00-40.00, few $41.00 at Los Angeles; Good, all weights, $35.00-39.00. Fresh pork loins under 16# cashed from $30.00-37.00, few to $39.00 at San Francisco; shoulders under 16# $20.00-26.00; smoked skinned hams under 18# $41.00-50.00; slab bacon under 10# $28.00-40.00, sliced 1# packages $36.00-42.00; lard in 1# cartons $14.00-18.00.

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	New York			Chicago			San Francisco		
	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 15 1955	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 15 1955	Jan. 14 1956	Jan. 7 1956	Jan. 15 1955
Beef –									
Steer –									
Prime 600–700#	40.50	39.00	--	37.75	36.75	50.25	--	--	--
700–800	38.50	37.00	49.00	37.75	36.75	50.25	--	--	--
Choice 500–600	--	--	--	36.10	36.25	44.75	35.50	35.50	42.00
600–700	37.00	36.00	45.50	36.10	36.25	44.70	33.85	34.00	40.50
Good 350–600	31.50	31.50	41.00	30.55	70.69	37.20	32.75	32.75	39.00
Com'l. " "	29.50	29.50	36.50	28.20	28.00	32.50	29.00	29.00	36.00
Cow, all wts. –									
Commercial	27.00	25.00	29.00	--	--	--	26.50	26.50	29.00
Utility	23.00	22.00	24.50	--	--	--	24.50	23.50	25.00
Veal –									
Prime 80–110#	48.50	46.00	46.50	44.50	44.50	45.80	--	--	--
Choice " "	43.50	41.00	44.50	41.00	39.50	41.30	--	--	--
Good " "	36.20	36.00	37.50	37.00	35.50	36.75	44.00	43.00	43.00
Lamb –									
Prime 40–50#	36.80	38.62	45.60	36.40	37.38	44.30	39.00	39.00	41.00
50–60	33.60	34.50	45.60	32.85	34.12	42.80	37.00	37.00	39.50
Choice 40–50	36.80	38.62	44.00	36.40	37.38	43.30	39.00	39.00	41.00
50–60	33.00	34.00	44.00	32.85	34.12	41.80	37.00	37.00	39.00
Good all wts.	31.30	32.25	41.00	32.35	33.56	40.00	36.50	36.50	37.00
Pork – Fresh –									
Loins 8–10# av.	31.90	34.00	43.50	29.65	31.75	40.90	37.60	38.50	46.50
10–12 "	31.90	34.00	43.50	29.65	31.75	40.90	37.70	38.00	43.00
12–16 "	30.80	33.25	40.90	28.25	31.06	37.70	35.80	37.00	43.00
Butts 4–8 "	28.90	29.25	37.60	25.20	25.44	34.50	32.50	32.88	44.00
Pork – Cured –									
Hams, smk., skd. –									
12–16# av.	43.00	41.50	54.00	45.55	45.00	51.55	48.50	48.50	56.00
16–18 "	41.50	41.00	48.50	43.00	42.00	48.15	46.00	46.00	52.00
18–20 "	--	--	--	42.85	42.62	47.45	--	--	50.00
Bacon, smk., slab –									
6–8# av.	--	--	--	35.85	36.12	56.30	38.00	38.00	57.50
8–10 "	34.00	35.00	52.00	33.35	33.88	52.50	37.00	37.00	54.00
Sliced 1 # pkg.	38.50	40.00	53.50	38.30	38.50	55.50	40.50	40.50	58.50
Picnics, smoked –									
4–8# av.	22.00	23.00	35.00	26.50	26.88	35.10	30.00	30.00	36.00
Backs, D. S. –									
16–20# av.	15.00	13.50	16.00	11.00	11.50	15.75	--	--	--
Lard, 1# cartons –									
Refined	16.00	16.00	17.00	14.05	14.25	16.75	17.50	17.50	18.90
Substitutes	--	--	--	24.80	25.00	27.50	--	--	--

Note: Prices are based on sales by slaughterers, packer branch houses, and wholesale dealers to retail dealers and hotel supply houses. Quotations at New York exclude locally dressed meats.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET REVIEW

Trading in the Boston market was quite brisk for the limited volume of greasy domestic worsted wools offered. All classes were in demand with particular emphasis on graded 56/58s combing wool as integrated mills and topmakers participated. A strong tone was evident as prices advanced in some categories and approximately twenty cars were moved. The good demand and limited supplies of scoured wools and noils influenced a stronger price tone for these items. Turnover in the Western States was slower than in recent weeks as most of the better wools had been purchased for consumption and unsold wool was held in strong hands. A few cars of territory wools were sold for Eastern delivery.

Cabled reports from Australia at midweek indicated strong general competition at firm prices, while New Zealand was 2½% to 5% higher under keen competition. Prices at the Cape markets advanced 2% to 2½% under general competition while South American prices were very firm and trade active.

Fleece Wools - Graded fine staple Ohio fleeces sold at $1.34 and $1.35 clean basis while a small quantity of graded fine, average to good French combing fleeces brought $1.16. Graded 56/58s good French combing and staple wool moved at $1.10 while 50/54s staple fleeces sold at $1.02-1.04. Medium grade short French combing and clothing fleece wool brought 96¢ clean while medium grade seedy and burry wool moved around 50¢ in the grease and medium grade gray fleeces at 44¢-45¢ grease basis.

Territory Wools - Graded territory 60/62s good French combing and staple wool sold at $1.20 clean basis while 56/58s good French combing and staple moved at $1.08-1.13 depending on style and character. An original bag lot of bulk fine, average to good French combing territory wool sold around $1.25 clean basis.

In the West, a graded 60/62s good French combing and staple territory wool sold at an estimated clean price of $1.22-1.24 delivered Boston, while 56/58s cost clean from $1.10-1.12 delivered.

Texas Wools - Original bag 12-months Texas wool, bulk good French combing and staple length brought from $1.33-1.35 clean.

Mohair - The Boston mohair trade was quiet while occasional small spring clips were contracted in Texas at 81½¢-83¢ for adult and from $1.01½-1.03 for kid mohair to the warehouse.

Foreign Wools - Greasy Montevideo super skirted 60s sold at 65¢ grease basis, in bond. A fair weight of spot greasy 10 to 12 months spinners and topmakers Cape 64/70s sold around $1.48 clean basis, duty paid. Buenos Aires 5s fleeces were offered for shipment at 88¢ clean basis, in bond. Cabled reports at week's end showed New Zealand closed 2½% to 5% higher while Australia and South Africa closed 2½% up. Quotes follow: New Zealand type 93 at 95¢; 834 at 93¢; 100 at 90½¢; 107 at 89¢; 114 at 89¢ and 128 at 90½¢. Australia type 56B at $1.28; 57B at $1.23; 58B at $1.18; 59B at $1.15; 432 at $1.14; 433 at $1.06; 434 at $1.01 and 435 at 93¢. Cape type 7 at $1.24; 8 at $1.22; 12 at $1.22; 47 at $1.22; 48 at $1.19; 52 at $1.19 and 53 at $1.17. Short types 27 at $1.19; 28 at $1.17; 32 at $1.17 and 33 at $1.15. Above quotes based on clean U.S. yields in bond.

Carpet Wools - Some carpet wool dealers found business in spot or nearby wools a little better compared to last week. Spot Buenos Aires November second clips sold at 87¢ clean fibers present. Good white Pakistan/India carpet wools were quoted for shipment around 94¢ clean fibers present and super yellows at 87¢ while Buenos Aires November second clips were priced at 87¢. New Zealand carpet wools were 1 to 2 pence higher. Approximately 7,400 bales of carpet wools will be auctioned at Liverpool on January 17 and 18.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS OF MEATS AND LARD, DECEMBER 31, 1955

Refrigerated stocks of red meats increased seasonally to 782 million pounds. The December increase of 181 million pounds of red meat stocks was 12 percent greater than the increase in 1954 but was 6 percent below average for this time of year. An above average gain in beef stocks raised warehouse holdings to 209 million pounds or 11 percent above the holdings of December 1954 but 2 percent under average for this time of year. Pork stocks increased seasonally to 422 million pounds. This quantity compares with 449 million in December 1954 and the December 5-year average of 463 million pounds.

UNITED STATES STORAGE HOLDINGS OF MEATS AND LARD, DEC. 31, 1955, WITH COMPARISONS
(Includes holdings in public, private and semi-private cold storage houses and meat packing plants)

Commodity	Dec. 31 1955	Nov. 30 1955	Dec. 31 1954	Dec. 31 1950-54 av.	Dec. 31, 1955 as % of Nov.	Dec. 31, 1955 as % of Dec. 1954	Dec. 31, 1955 as % of Dec. 5-yr. av.
BEEF:	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.			
Frozen	197,668	149,925	178,269	201,715	132	111	98
In cure, cured & smkd.	11,017	10,288	9,579	11,064	107	115	100
Total	208,685	160,213	187,848	212,779	130	111	98
PORK:							
Frozen	310,625	183,412	314,311	293,469	169	99	106
Dry salt, in cure and cured	27,352	24,222	35,905	37,968	113	76	72
Other, in cure, cured and smoked	83,647	99,080	98,429	131,087	84	85	64
Total	421,624	306,714	448,645	462,524	137	94	91
OTHER MEATS AND MEAT PRODUCTS:							
Sausage & sausage room products	15,394	13,458	14,601	15,506	114	105	99
Frozen lamb & mutton	10,722	9,884	9,714	13,611	108	110	79
Frozen veal	18,800	16,400	20,532	19,135	115	92	98
Canned meats & meat products	36,958	31,266	54,001	37,423	118	68	99
All edible offal	70,119	62,990	64,621	63,119	111	109	111
Total other meats & meat products	151,993	133,998	163,469	148,794	113	93	102
Total all meats	782,302	600,925	799,962	824,097	130	98	95
Lard, rendered & refined 1/	2/	98,426	104,125	124,164	--	--	--
GOVERNMENT HOLDINGS 3/							
Pork	3,995	5,558	12,602	2/	72	32	--
Beef	7,541	6,928	10,973	2/	109	69	--

1/ In dry and cold storage as reported by Bureau of Census.
2/ Not available.
3/ Government holdings are included in the totals and consist of reported stocks held by U. S. D. A., the Armed Services and other Government agencies.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, JANUARY 1, 1956

The number of cattle and calves on feed for market in the United States on January 1, 1956 was 1 percent larger than a year ago, according to the Crop Reporting Board. The estimated number was 5,823,000 head, compared with 5,786,000 head last year and the 1950-54 average of 5,001,000 head. The number on feed in the North Central States was about the same as a year ago. In the 13 Western States, it was up 3 percent.

The Corn Belt total on January 1 was estimated at 4,178,000 head. The western Corn Belt States declined 4 percent, while feeding in the eastern Corn Belt was up 9 percent from a year earlier. Iowa, the leading feeding State, was the same as a year ago. Decreases in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas more than offset increases in all other western Corn Belt States. Illinois, the second ranking feeding State this year showed a 5 percent increase. Feeding in each of the other eastern Corn Belt States was also larger than a year earlier.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle, during the period October to December, into the 9 Corn Belt States for which State inspection records are available were less than 1 percent below the same period a year ago. For the July-December period, inshipments were 2 percent smaller than for the corresponding period a year earlier.

Outside the North Central States, the number of cattle on feed was 3 percent larger than a year ago. California, the leading State in the West, showed an increase of 5 percent, while Colorado, the second leading western State, was 18 percent below a year earlier. In Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Oregon, the number of cattle on feed was greater than a year ago, while other areas of the West were down. Pennsylvania was down 2 percent, while Texas was up 8 pct.

For the 13 States in which quarterly estimates of cattle on feed are made, the number on feed on January 1, 1956 was down 1 percent from a year earlier. On October 1, 1955, the number was 19 percent larger than a year earlier. The lower level of foeding on January 1 relative to October 1 resulted from heavy marketings of fed cattle and fewer replacements during the past quarter as compared with the corresponding period in 1954. In 11 States where quarterly estimates for both October and January are available, marketings during the period October-December 1955 were 15 percent greater than the same period in 1954. Placements during this same period were down 10 percent.

Detailed estimates showing classes of cattle, their weight, expected marketings and length of time on feed are presented in this report for 14 States.

The data for the 14 States reveal that the number on feed over 3 months is 30 percent above last year, but those on feed less than 3 months show a decrease of 9 percent. As a percent of the total on feed, the number on feed less than 3 months was 72 percent compared with 79 percent a year earlier. Cattle on feed 3-6 months were 24 percent of the total, compared with 19 percent last year. About 4 percent of the total had been on feed more than 6 months, compared with 2 percent a year ago.

Estimates by weight groups and kinds of cattle on feed this year indicate less interest in feeding calves and lightweight cattle than last year. Cattle weighing under 600 pounds comprised 29 percent of the total number on feed, compared with 33 percent a year earlier; those weighing 600-900 pounds were 44 percent of the total compared with 45 percent last year; and those weighing over 900 pounds were 27 percent and 22 percent last year. Steers represented 57 percent of the total compared with 53 percent last year; heifers 21 percent and 19 percent; calves 21 percent and 26 percent; cows and other cattle 1 percent and 2 percent. Cattle feeders in these 14 States intend to market fed cattle at a faster rate than intended a year ago, with 51 percent of the January 1 number to be marketed by April 1.

Revisions of cattle on feed estimates are published in this report for the 1950-55 period. These revisions were based on a review of current data obtained from cattle feeders along with data relating to movements of feeder cattle and marketings of fed cattle which were not available at the time current estimates were made.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED JANUARY 1, 1950-56 1/
(Revised Estimates 1950-55)

State	5-year average (1950-54)	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1956 as percent of 1955
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent
Pa.	89	88	90	90	90	86	84	82	98
Ohio	137	125	125	130	143	164	164	180	110
Ind.	205	185	176	180	225	259	272	321	118
Ill.	532	489	489	504	600	580	609	630	105
Mich.	100	90	86	99	109	114	114	131	115
Wisc.	96	87	91	96	100	104	108	112	104
E.N.C.	1,070	976	967	1,009	1,177	1,221	1,267	1,383	109
Minn.	306	294	300	300	318	318	321	337	105
Iowa.	1,064	955	955	1,003	1,274	1,134	1,225	1,225	100
Mo.	231	242	230	207	253	223	234	281	120
N. Dak.	66	57	54	65	72	80	76	110	145
S. Dak.	196	180	180	189	227	204	214	210	98
Nebr.	546	420	450	522	731	607	625	450	72
Kans.	251	252	252	265	270	216	227	182	80
W.N.C.	2,660	2,400	2,421	2,551	3,145	2,782	2,922	2,795	96
N.C.	3,730	3,376	3,388	3,560	4,322	4,003	4,189	4,178	100
Okla.	62	55	62	55	70	70	68	61	90
Texas	169	161	177	186	193	129	132	143	108
Mont.	36	25	26	32	45	54	45	58	129
Idaho	92	78	76	85	110	110	135	150	111
Wyo.	25	15	17	24	33	35	30	25	84
Colo.	255	206	229	300	296	245	275	225	82
N. Mex.	22	17	16	28	32	18	29	37	128
Ariz.	93	59	87	97	102	120	169	204	121
Utah.	48	40	46	50	51	53	57	59	104
Nev.	22	22	22	20	22	26	30	29	97
Wash.	27	22	24	25	31	33	40	38	95
Oreg.	29	30	26	26	30	32	36	45	124
Calif.	301	196	248	383	327	350	467	489	105
Western.	1,182	926	1,056	1,311	1,342	1,275	1,513	1,563	103
U.S.	5,001	4,390	4,534	4,961	5,754	5,364	5,786	5,823	101

1/ Estimates include only cattle being fattened for market as a more or less distinct agricultural enterprise, and excludes small operations incidental to dairy and general farming. Cattle thus fed are presumed to produce carcasses that will grade good or better.

In addition there have been a number of cattle finished on distillery slop, mostly in Kentucky, and on by-product feeds in other States not shown as well as large numbers being winter-fed in West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, and some other States to be marketed as grass fat in late summer.

SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED, JANUARY 1, 1956

The number of sheep and lambs on feed for market in the United States on January 1 was 8 percent smaller than last year according to the Crop Reporting Board. The number is estimated at 4,100,000 head, 345,000 head less than last year. Most of the decrease occurred in the Western Corn Belt and on wheat pastures in the South and Central Great Plains States. The majority of the Western States also showed decreases.

In the 11 Corn Belt States, the number of sheep and lambs on feed is estimated at 2,145,000 head, 13 percent below a year ago. Lamb feeding was less than a year ago in all of the Corn Belt States except Indiana and Illinois which showed an increase of 12 percent each, and Ohio, Missouri and South Dakota which reported the same number on feed as last year. Elsewhere in the Corn Belt reductions are as follows: Kansas, down 33 percent; Nebraska, down 26 percent; Iowa, down 20 percent; Wisconsin, down 13 percent; Minnesota, down 3 percent; and Michigan, down 2 percent.

Shipments of sheep and lambs into the 9 Corn Belt States for which State inspection data are available for July through December 1955 were 7 percent below the same months for 1954.

The number of lambs on feed in the wheat pasture areas of the Great Plains was down sharply from last year. In Kansas, the number of sheep and lambs on wheat pastures on January 1 is estimated at about 84,000 head, compared with 147,000 head last year. Rains in October in the Central Plains started wheat, but lack of rain since October has limited growth and only a limited amount of acreage, mostly irrigated, was available for pasture. Total lambs on feed in Kansas were down 33 percent; in Oklahoma, 10 percent; and in Texas, 25 percent.

The number of lambs on feed in Colorado, the leading Western feeding State, was 10 percent below January 1 last year. In Northern Colorado, 335,000 head were on feed compared with 397,000 head last year. The Arkansas Valley in Colorado showed an increase of 32 percent. In California, the second largest feeding State in the West, sheep and lambs on feed are estimated at 320,000 head--3 percent larger than on January 1, 1955. Lamb feeding in the North Platte Valley of Nebraska and Wyoming was below a year ago. Elsewhere in the West, numbers on feed this year were lower than a year ago in most States. Washington is estimated to have 22 percent fewer sheep and lambs on feed. Idaho, Utah and Nevada were each down 9 percent; Arizona, down 8 percent; Oregon, down 5 percent; and Wyoming, down 2 percent. Montana had 22 percent more sheep and lambs on feed this year than a year ago.

Farmers in Alabama had approximately 42,000 lambs on pastures on January 1 this year. In North Dakota, the number of sheep and lambs on feed at 122,000, is 52 percent larger than a year ago.

Weather conditions to January 1 have been generally favorable for lamb feeding, except in the Great Plains States where lack of rainfall has restricted development of wheat pastures. Outside of parts of the Great Plains and Western Corn Belt, feed supplies are ample. Prices of feeder lambs on the Denver market advanced from the low point of $16.25 reached during mid-August to a high of $19.00 the last week in November. The average price of Good and Choice feeder lambs at Denver for the week ending December 31, 1955 was $17.50 per hundred pounds compared with $18.00 for the same week a year earlier.

Continued on next page.

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SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED, JANUARY 1, 1950-56 1/
(Revised Estimates 1950-55)

State and Division	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1956 Percent of 1955
	Thousand head							Percent
New York	20	19	21	20	21	20	20	100
Ohio	210	189	204	239	215	211	211	100
Indiana	84	70	80	95	86	77	86	112
Illinois	180	155	217	239	196	161	180	112
Michigan	89	70	90	98	90	90	88	98
Wisconsin	60	57	51	71	60	62	54	87
Minnesota	165	127	210	285	234	225	218	97
Iowa	344	323	404	505	412	441	353	80
Missouri	130	120	145	135	100	130	130	100
South Dakota	130	113	164	185	196	230	230	100
Nebraska	420	580	632	590	555	588	435	74
Kansas	460	308	206	190	266	239	160	67
Corn Belt	2,272	2,112	2,403	2,632	2,410	2,454	2,145	87
North Dakota	52	46	62	75	82	80	122	152
Alabama	--	--	--	--	--	--	42	--
Oklahoma	40	50	65	40	75	60	54	90
Texas	118	105	117	200	300	305	229	75
Montana	120	135	160	135	143	150	183	122
Idaho	75	60	65	83	90	95	86	91
Wyoming	83	71	115	130	122	133	130	98
Colorado	545	435	625	556	505	542	490	90
New Mexico	28	52	31	30	52	63	71	112
Arizona	10	24	45	35	40	65	60	92
Utah	60	60	73	90	105	98	89	91
Nevada	8	7	10	10	12	11	10	91
Washington	28	26	28	37	34	32	25	78
Oregon	18	15	20	18	21	25	24	95
California	167	165	198	216	265	312	320	103
Western	1,352	1,251	1,614	1,655	1,846	1,971	1,935	98
U. S.	3,644	3,382	4,038	4,307	4,277	4,445	4,100	92

1/ Includes sheep and lambs on feed in commercial feed lots.
Agricultural Estimates Division.